

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 21, No. 10

October 1953

Whole No. 253

BUCKSKIN MEN OF FOREST AND PLAIN

By J. Edward Leithead

Part V



From the LeBlanc Collection

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Part V

Hickok took the fatal trail to Deadwood—he had been in Cheyenne just previous to that, where his marriage to Mrs. Agnes Lake had taken place—and it is likely he would have become marshal of that boom gold town had he lived. Among his associates in Deadwood were Colorado Charlie Uter, California Joe, Captain Jack Crawford, the Poet Scout, and Calamity Jane Canary (herself the heroine of at least one novel, in Log Cabin Library #130, *The Queen of the Plains*, or, *Calamity Jane*, by Reckless Ralph, pseudonym of T. W. Hanshew). Only a bullet from behind, fired by Jack McCall, stopped Hickok. Nobody had ever been able to do it facing him, though many had tried.

Besides the biography by Ingraham, Beadle's Dime Library published, in #168, *Wild Bill, the Pistol Deadshot*, or, *Dagger Don's Double*. A Romance of Buffalo Bill's Old Pard—this containing Ingraham's version of the Hickok-McCandlas fight, #175, *Wild Bill's Trump Card*, or, *The Indian Heiress*, by Ingraham (reprinted in Buffalo Bill Stories #132, with Cody replacing Hickok), #189, *Wild Bill's Gold Trail*, or, *The Desperado Dozen*, by Ingraham (reprinted as Buffalo Bill Stories #134, with the same substitution in the chief char-

acter as mentioned above), #319, *Wild Bill, the Whirlwind of the West*, or, *The Buckskin Bravos of the Black Hills*, by Ingraham, #800, *Wild Bill, the Dead-Center Shot*, or, *Rio Grande Ralph, the Cowboy Chief*, by Ingraham, and #807, *Wild Bill, the Wild West Duelist*, or, *The Girl Mascot of Moonlight Mine*, by Ingraham.

Beadle's Half-Dime Library had two, #1063, *Wild Bill's Weird Foe*, or, *The Mystery of Moaning Gulch*. A Tale of the Black Hills, and #1073, *Wild Bill's Sable Pard*, or, *The Pirates of Peaceful Pocket*, both by Wm. G. Patten (Burt L. Standish) and reprinted from Beadle's Popular Library.

We now switch to the Wild Bill stories of other publishers. The War Library (Street & Smith) had one about his Civil War adventures, #140, *Wild Bill, the Union Scout of Missouri*. A True and Thrilling Tale of the Famous Borderman, by Major Sam S. Hall. The Campfire Library (Street & Smith) contained the following: #11, *Hardy, the Prairie Scout*, or, *Wild Bill's First War Trail*. A Stirring Tale of Real Life on the Border, by William Hickok ("Wild Bill") and #66, *Wild Bill's Trail*, or, *The Bluecoat Scouts of the Prairie*. A Remarkable Story of the Wild

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Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

Assistant Editor for Photography—Charles Duprez, Bellerose, L. I., N. Y.

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West, by Paul Preston; and the Nugget Library (Street & Smith) had two, #40, No Slouch. A Romance of Pike's Peak, by Leander P. Richardson (who knew Wild Bill and wrote another novel about California Joe) and #49, Wild Bill's Last Trail, by Ned Buntline (E. Z. C. Judson), the latter a tale of the Black Hills, ending with Hickok's death in Deadwood. Captain Jack Crawford and California Joe are also in this story. Both tales were reprinted in the Diamond Dick Library #161 and #192 respectively.

De Witt's Ten Cent Romances published two by Ned Buntline, #3, Wild Bill, the Indian Slayer and #10, Wild Bill's First Trail. Munro's Ten Cent Novels had one, #350, Wild Bill's Trap, by Lewis Vincent, and there was one in Wide Awake Library (Tousey) #921, Wild Bill's Boy Partner, or, The Redskins' Gold Secret (never reprinted in Pluck and Luck, as were so many other Wide Awakes).

Texas Jack, whose real name was John B. Omohundro, was another handsome, long-haired buckskin man of the prairie, by his photos and by the description of authors who knew him. He was born in West Virginia, but Texas became his adopted State in his youth, following a shipwreck in the Gulf, around Corpus Christi Bay. He took to punching cattle for Texas stockmen, drifted up into the Panhandle, fought red men from Indian Territory who swooped down on the white ranchers' cattle. It was a tough, dangerous life, but Texas Jack liked it.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, his sympathies naturally being with the South, Jack enlisted as a courier, was transferred to the Eastern battle front and rode with the hard-striking cavalry of that picturesque leader, Col. J. E. B. Stuart. I believe it was in one of Col. Ingraham's tales that Bill Cody and Texas Jack, while fighting on opposite sides in the Rebellion, were supposed to see each other for the first time; but there's another story that they didn't meet until around 1873, Jack, at the time, work-

ing for the Government as head man of a Pawnee Indian battalion organized to fight the hostile plains tribes. He got along well with the Pawnees, was made a chief, this being the subject of one of Ned Buntline's novels.

From there on, Texas Jack seems to have done a lot of Indian-fighting in the company of Buffalo Bill, covering ground in Kansas and Nebraska, which were the scene of pretty constant warfare. He secured a job supplying antelope steaks to the Army, antelope being more plentiful than buffalo then. His name often got into the news while he was dispatch-rider for the New York Herald, when General Custer was marching against the Sioux and Cheyennes, accurate information being hard for an ordinary reporter to get hold of—it required a plains-trained man who could slip by the Indians, and at that Texas Jack was well skilled.

Eventually, he went to Leadville, Colorado, then a boom silver camp, and there contracted pneumonia, from which he died, attended to the last by Mrs. Omohundro, whose stage name was Mlle. Morlacchi. Jack had met and married her while on theatrical tour with Buffalo Bill.

Col. Prentiss Ingraham wrote a biography of Texas Jack, which was #5 of Beadle's Boy's Library, large size, Texas Jack, the Mustang King; it was reprinted in the small size library as #10, also in Beadle's Pocket Library. He was the hero of the following stories in Beadle's Dime Library, by Ingraham: #304, Texas Jack, the Prairie Rattler, or, The Queen of the Wild Riders, #834, The Wild Steer Riders, or, Texas Jack's Terrors, #839, The Ranch King Dead-shot, or, Texas Jack's Proxy and #969, Texas Jack, the Lasso King, or, The Robber Rangers of the Rio Grande. In Beadle's Half-Dime there's only one Texas Jack item so far as I know, #495, Arizona Joe, the Boy Pard of Texas Jack, by Ingraham, the "boy pard" being young Joe Bruce, a real person whom Omohundro took under his guardianship.

Log Cabin Library (Street &

Smith) published one about him in #132, Texas Jack, the White King of the Pawnees, by Ned Buntline (originally a New York Weekly serial). De Witt's Ten Cent Romances had one, #102, Texas Jack, or, Buffalo Bill's Brother, by "Lone Star", and the Nickel Library (Pictorial Printing Co.) had one, Texas Jack's Chums, or, The Whirlwinds of the West, by Ned (Lu Senarens). There was one in Pluck and Luck #787 entitled, Young Texas Jack, or, The Boys of the Panhandle Range, by P. T. Raymond, probably a reprint from a black-and-white Tousey library, and I'm not sure it's the real Texas Jack, although he was a cowboy in the Panhandle at one time. Of course, Texas Jack, like Wild Bill, appeared frequently in Street & Smith's Buffalo Bill Stories.

(to be continued)

Bantam Books has brought out a paper edition of Mr. Jay Monaghan's book "The Great Rascal", a life of Ned Buntline. This book should be of interest to all dime novel collectors as it is an excellent biography of one of the first dime novelists and the "creator" of Buffalo Bill. It was published in September as No. A1145 and sells at 35¢.

It is with keen pleasure that we announce that Mr. John Cameron Swayze of NBC television news fame as an honorary member of our organization. May he be with us a long, long time.

QUESTION & ANSWER COLUMN

Mr. A. W. Lawson of London, England, asks, "Who was the author of 'Richard Hoffman', a story published in the New York Ledger Jan. 16, 1858 to Dec. 18, 1858? The story is about London and India and was evidently written by an English author, but who?"

Mr. Jack R. Schorr writes in answer to Mr. Olnhausen's question relative to the number of Merriwell stories published in cloth that the U.

of Maine Bulletin of May 1934 entitled "Gilbert Patten and His Frank Merriwell Saga" lists 28 cloth bounds. David McKay, Publisher, in answer to an inquiry by Mr. Schorr states that 26 to 28 titles were published. This would indicate that 28 titles were published by David McKay. (I have personally accounted for 27 titles, the 24 listed in practically every cloth bound edition and F. M.'s Cruise, F. M. in Camp and F. M.'s Vacation. The Editor.) Mr. Schorr also states that he has some cloth bound Merriwells published by Street & Smith. They were bound in a dark green cover. Can anyone throw any light on how many of these were published? This is the first I have heard of them.

(Advertisements)

EXCHANGES COLUMN

Wanted: Certain numbers of Oliver Optic Magazine, Harper's Young People, Golden Days, St. Nicholas, Boys of New York. Send for want list. Captain C. G. Mayo, U.S.N. Ret'd, Wild Acres, Huntington, Vermont.

For Sale. Street & Smith 15¢ Series. Round the World Library, Adventure Library, Buffalo Bills, Diamond Dicks, Price 50¢ per copy. George Sahr, 7025 31st Ave., Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Wanted—All dime novels dealing with West Virginia. C. E. Douglas, 402 28th St., Vienna, W. Va.

Wanted—New York Ledger, Volume 18. A. W. Lawson, 13 Charles Square, Hoxton, London, N 1, England.

Wanted—Chicago Ledgers, especially for the year 1916. Albert Pohlman, Hortonville, Wisconsin.

Wanted—Buck Badger's Ranch and The Rockspur Nine in any edition. George Sahr, 7025 31st Ave., Kenosha, Wis.

Wanted—No. 50 Round the World Library, Edward T. LeBlanc, 36 Taylor St., Fall River, Mass.

Wanted—Nick Carter Library #72 75 80 86 94 107 108 109 115 and New York Weeklies containing Nick Carter stories. W. S. Houston, 116 Church St., Greensboro, N. C.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Here's some very bad news. On the night of Friday, Aug. 21st, Tilman LeBlanc, age 57, father of Edward Le Blanc, editor of the Roundup, was struck by a drunken driver, right after he had changed a tire on route 128, on his way home after a 2 weeks vacation trip to Canada. With him were his wife Exelia and his brother Alyer. Tilman died at 1:28 Saturday morning in the hospital. Both legs had been severed from his body. Til was one of our oldest members. We are all going to miss him a lot. When I received the news I was shocked. Kenneth Daggett of Gardiner, Maine, another Brotherhood member was here fixing my chimney and he felt very badly when I told him the news, as Ken had met him a few years ago. Sunday afternoon Kenneth drove me down to Fall River. On our way down we stopped in to see Mr. and Mrs. Eli Messier of Woonsocket, R. I. Ken looked over his collection, bought a few he needed, and then we all went down to Fall River to the wake. Eli and his wife went home Sunday night as Eli had to work next day, while Kenneth and I stayed over in town for the funeral next day. And to think that Charles Duprez of Bellerose, L. I., N. Y. and myself were down to see him July 17th and 18th. It sure was a shock to us all. We all send our sincerest sympathy to Ed and his mother and family, for we all are very sorry to hear of your great loss, and if there is anything we can do, we'll be very glad to do all we can. God bless him always.

Tilman was a great collector of these old timers, as well as his son Edward. They were known as father and son collectors of old dime and nickel novels and story papers, and having one of the largest and best collections in the U. S.

It was way back in Dec. 1928, that Tilman became a member of Happy Hours Brotherhood, and at that time he was living in North Tiverton, R. I. He was a great friend to us all, and we'll all miss him very much.

Kenneth Daggett has written a

fine article on Youths Companion, also another fine long article he has sent in, a bibliography on C. A. Stephens who wrote for the Youths Companion, and other books and papers.

Sure some fine stuff here, and worthy to be used in our little Roundup, for it is a history in itself.

August seems to have been an unlucky month all around. Ye editor of this column, meaning myself, was bitten by a dog thursday afternoon, Aug. 27th, up in town here, when I was on my way to Worcester—was in a hurry to catch the bus when a little Scotty came out, and I guess he wanted to play, but I didn't have time, so he got mad, and nabbed me in the left leg between the ankle and knee. His teeth sure were sharp for a little dog I'll say, for he bit deep. So far I've been to the doctor 6 times to date and have to go again. (Guess he wanted a piece of beef steak or something.) And talking about dogs, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Messier put their dog in a dog home while they were on a vacation up in New Hampshire last week, and when they got back they found they'd had a fire at the dog kennel, and their dog had died in the fire, and they sure feel very blue over their loss. We all know what it is to be attached to a dog or any kind of animal, and we all send our sympathy to them.

Carl Linville has got out of the hospital after being in there 7 months. He says it seems like 7 long years. We are all glad that you are out, and at home, and enjoying your old timers once more, Pard. Carl also says there's a fine western magazine that's just coming out with history in the settling of the west, in Vol. 1, No. 1, called "True West", published by the Sportsman Pub. Co., P. O. Box 5008, 3313 Bridle Path Park, Austin, Texas. 25¢ per copy, pub. quarterly.

He Makes His Dime Novel Hobby Pay For Itself, by Robert N. Cool. This is Eli Messier's fine article that appeared in The Providence Sunday Journal for July 19th, 1953. Has picture of Eli sitting at table surrounded by his favorites, and also shows thousands of paper backs upon shelves

and so forth. Very interesting, I'll say.

Fred P. Pitzer was in the hospital 3 weeks. In that time he underwent an operation, but is feeling much better than he did.

We have heard that Bill Gander's Story Paper Collector is to be no more, for it has ceased publication as of April 1953, Vol. 2, No. 50. We are all going to miss this little paper, and I don't mean maybe, as it was our only way of keeping in touch with the old bloods and dreadfuls of the days gone by. I haven't seen a copy of Jos. Parks Collectors Miscelany for quite a while, hope it is still going, also the Collectors Digest. So let's hope at some future time Bill see's his way clear to be able to bring out more of them, at a later date. When one has to set type all by hand, it's sure a work of love, and most people don't realize what a job it really is. The Roundup will do its best I'm sure to please every one, as it's hard to please all, we do our best, and I know Bill as

well as all the others have done the same.

Bro. J. J. Myler has almost a complete set of New Buffalo Bill Weekly lacking numbers 111, 127, 128, 129, 143, 144, 145, 161, 327, 356 and 362. Who's interested, all in good condition. Address 333 Pelham St., Rochester 10, N. Y.

Aubrey W. Egerton says that the first Tip Top Weekly he ever read, came out in 1902, entitled "Dick Merriwells Daring Leap, or Bound to get There." It had a picture of Dick Leaping from an automobile on to the back end of a train. No. 316.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

30. P. J. Moran, 1159 Bonita Lane, Walnut Creek, Calif.—New address.

66. Charley W. Daniel, Box 417, Bradenton Beach, Florida—New address.

210. John Cameron Swayze, NBC News, New York, N. Y.

211. John F. MacDonald, 55 Tremont St., Somerville 45, Mass.

FOR SALE

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BRITISH BOXING , by D. Batchelor. Illus. with color plates	2.00
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Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

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| 32. Diamond Dick, Jr. | 70. The Admirable Arlington. |
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| 34. Old Boys Journals Illustrations. | |
| 35. Davis, Nick Carter's Ghost Writer. | |
| 36. M. E. Marsh. | |
| 37. These Ivers' Reprints of Beadle's Boys Library. | |
| 38. Diamond Dick. | |

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

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Medal Library #4 165 25¢ each. Alger Series #26 27 25¢ each.

Orange and Green by G. A. Henty, 25¢; Tom Swift and His Talking Pictures, 25¢; Through Forest and Fire, by E. S. Ellis, Winston, 50¢.

Captain C. G. Mayo

Wild Acres

Huntington, Vermont

No orders accepted for less than \$3.00. Send orders before 15 November as I leave for Florida at that time.